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Sent: 19 December 2012 11:26 AM

To: Trippier, John

Subject: Real Time Train Information - a consultation by ORR on the findings from its review

Please find my consultation response below.

1.16 Consultation question 1: We are looking for stakeholder comments on NRE's proposed changes to its Code and where changes have not been made, comments on NRE's reasoning. **The reference to "reputable company" stifles competition and innovation by denying access to amateur app developers. Furthermore, NRE policing the release of data is time consuming and expensive – just give them the data (online) and there is no need for a team to support applications.**

1.17 Consultation question 2: We are looking for stakeholder comments on the extent to which Network Rail's data feed represents a viable alternative to Darwin and the uses that these feeds can be put to. **The rail industry needs to concentrate on sorting it's own information out rather than worrying about trying to charge people for it's own shoddy data sources. Passengers would much rather have real time information at stations that worked – so don't tell them that a train is on time until 5 minutes beyond due time and then show it as cancelled, and don't keep a train on the display as late and then cancelled after the train has departed on time. These things happen – sort this out rather than worrying about charging developers for that same shoddy information. Give the info free to developers so it can be used to the best possible passenger benefit for a change. The rail industry is probably too obsessed with trying to extract a bit of profit for itself somewhere and needs to focus on satisfying passengers for a change. Why do we keep having to remind the industry (and DfT for that matter) that it is a social service and if it want to avoid a groundswell of public opinion calling for structural reform it should focus on passengers and social benefits?**

1.18 Consultation question 3: We are interested to hear consultees' views on the evidence that we present in Chapter 5 on the number of new licences and apps., and on any reasons why they consider this growth might overstate the health of this market. In particular we welcome stakeholder views on:

(a) The medium-term sustainability (to the extent that this is possible to predict in a fast-moving technology market) of the relatively large number of apps that are currently on the market, including on the feasibility of paid and ad-funded or free-to-download apps coexisting; and **This should not be of concern to the ORR or the rail industry. Give the data for free and people will develop good quality apps that respond to consumer and technical changes over time.**

(b) The likelihood of a significantly better range of applications and functionality being made available under a more open data standard. **– yes obviously, amateurs will be able to develop them and you may get benevolent ones that do not charge or use adverts – both to the benefit of consumers. You will also get much more innovation and increase the likelihood of a better product.**

1.19 Consultation question 4: We ask consultees for views on whether an open data approach, if adopted, would lead to change in the market for RTTI products and services and if so: (a) what this change might look like; and (b) whether it would be desirable.

(a) I would have thought that you would get many more people trying to develop apps, especially amateurs

(b) I would have thought as many people as possible developing apps would enable creativity and the best possible product to succeed in the market

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